



South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



RICHARDSON NAMED STATE VETERANS HOME SUPERINTENDENT

SDDVA Secretary Larry Zimmerman announced this week that Bradley Richardson has been named the superintendent of the Michael J Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home in Hot Springs.

"Bradley has more than 29 years of leadership, experience and knowledge in military healthcare and has vast expertise in healthcare management," said Secretary Zimmerman. "Richardson will be an outstanding leader for our State Veterans Home. His education and military experience will be a great asset as we construct and transition into our new veterans home."

Richardson, an Aberdeen native, is anxious to return to his home state and continue to work and support the healthcare needs of our veterans.

"We are fortunate that an administrator of Richardson's stature will be leading our great team at the state veterans home and look forward to his arrival on June 11," said Zimmerman.

Construction work on the new state veterans home is progressing according to schedule. Blasting and site grading continue, while concrete foundation walls and footings are being poured and utility work for water, sewer, electric and steam is ongoing. Weather conditions have allowed us to stay on schedule.



Inside this issue:

Purple Up	2-3
Heroes Among Us	4-5
VA Open House	6
Veteran Receives Gift	6
Honor and Remember Flag Presentation	7
Upcoming Events	8

Heroes Among Us—
showcasing 125 South Dakota
veterans.



PURPLE UP TRIVIA

- ◇ April is Month of the Military Child.
- ◇ Started in 1986 by then Secretary of Defense, Caspar W. Weinberger.
- ◇ This month is set aside as a time to recognize and honor military children for their many sacrifices and struggles, as well as their countless contributions to our nation.
- ◇ These kids are an inspiration and a source of pride, and it is fitting that we celebrate their spirits and commitments to our country.
- ◇ South Dakota's Governor, signs an Executive Proclamation, proclaiming April as Month of the Military Child, and special events and activities are held in honor of our military kids.
- ◇ Our military children face many challenges before, during and after deployment of their loved ones.
- ◇ Parental separation, increased responsibilities at home, and frequent moves, are just a few areas that military kids must navigate, like a complicated obstacle course
- ◇ If given enough support to get through these tough times, our military children can come through with great resilience and confidence, ever ready to face other life changing events.
- ◇ Our communities need to stand together and support our military families.
- ◇ Help make April a special time for the **7,400 military kids in SD.**
- ◇ Wear purple on April 15th and be part of **Purple Up! For Military Kids Day!**
- ◇ Support OMK's Storytime at libraries and schools by offering to read a military story to elementary kids with the books being donated to community libraries and schools by OMK.
- ◇ Remember, when parents serve in the military, their children serve too.
- ◇ Thank military children for their service to our country.

SHANNON COUNTY NAMES NEW CVSO

Shannon County Commissioners have selected Lynette Quinsaas as their new County Veterans Service Officer.

Eager to learn her role of the county veteran service officer, Lynette immediately attended the Department's orientation program for new CTVSOs.

Lynette replaces Archie Hopkins.

At this time, Lynette's office hours are 9:00 am—4:00 pm Monday through Wednesday. Her email address is: lkillsback@aol.com.

Welcome aboard Lynette.

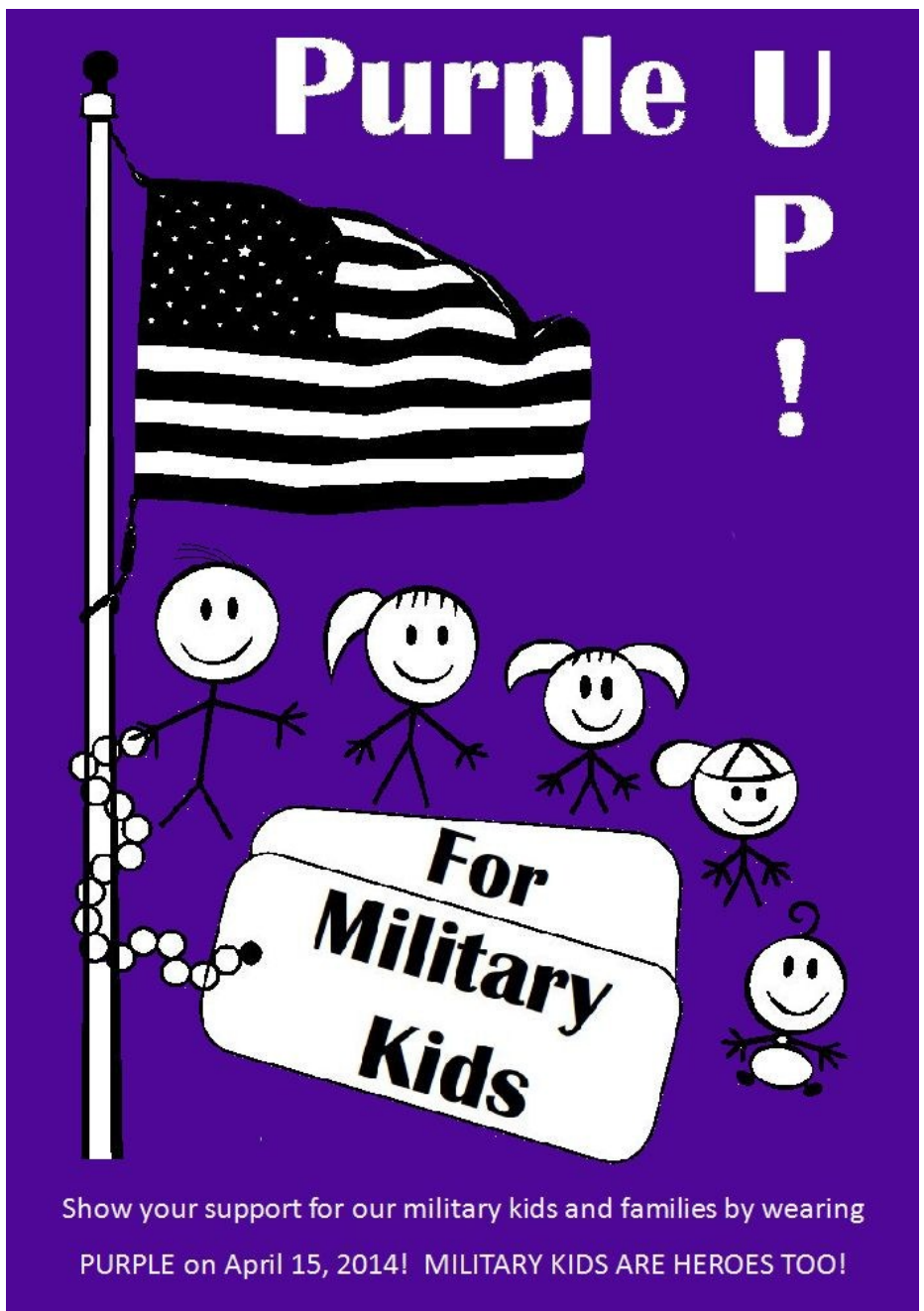


PURPLE UP

South Dakota's Operation: Military Kids (OMK) wants to remind everyone that April is the official Month of the Military child. According to Sheila Troxel Snyder, State Coordinator of the Operation: Military Kids (OMK) Program, this month is "a time to honor our community youth who have been impacted by deployments in the past and who also face many challenges in the future, especially the reintegration of the family after enduring long separations due to deployments." Governor Dugaard will be proclaiming April as the Month of the Military Child in South Dakota.

Several activities are being planned for the month within several communities, including "**Purple Up for Military Kids**" Day. April 15, 2014 has been proclaimed a special day to show appreciation for our military kids by wearing something "purple." All citizens of South Dakota are being encouraged to wear purple on that date. Mayors across the state will be proclaiming "Purple Up! Day in their cities. Citizens are being encouraged to be creative and think of other ways to say thank you to our military kids for their service. For more information, please call the SDSU West River Ag Center at 605-394-2236.

Operation: Military Kids (OMK) is an ongoing, dynamic program to support and promote the children of deployed military service professionals. OMK is a collaborative effort between the U.S. Army, South Dakota 4-H, American Legion, and Boys and Girls Clubs of America. Its purpose is to provide local community support for the children of service women and men from South Dakota. The South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service administers the program and its offices are located at South Dakota State University's West River Agricultural Center in Rapid.



HEROES AMONG US

Justin Hiller, born and raised in the Onida area, received his elementary and high school education in the Agar/Blunt/Onida/Sully Buttes school district graduating in 2007. He then attended Black Hills State University for a year and a half.

In 2008 he joined the Army as an infantryman. He attended One Station Unit Training (OSUT) in Ft. Benning, GA from November 2008—March 2009.

After OSUT Justin stayed on at Ft. Benning to take part in Airborne School. Justin will be the first to tell you that Jumping out of the aircraft has been one of the most exhilarating things he has done in his life.

Upon completion of Airborne School and earning his parachutist's badge, Justin was relocated to Ft. Bragg, NC, home of the 82nd Airborne Division. He continues to serve at Ft. Bragg and duties have included training as a rifleman in an 11B (regular infantry) platoon and training as an 11C (mortars, indirect fire infantry). Justin served as a mortar squad leader.

In 2010 when the devastating earthquake occurred in Haiti, his unit was on Global Response Force 1 (GRF1) and they were deployed to Port-au-Prince, Haiti. They conducted humanitarian missions.

In 2011, Justin deployed to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn, where they assisted with the American troop withdrawal.

Still serving, Justin is still jumping out of airplanes and running the arms room of his unit.

Thank you Justin
for your service to this
great country.



U.S. ARMY

Fort Bragg

Home of the Airborne and Special Operations Forces

HEROES AMONG US

When the Schaible family gathered for their annual family reunion in Lake Tahoe, California, it was more than a family reunion — it was a reunion that brought these heroes and Legionnaires back together. Back row (l to r) are Leslie Schaible (Ventura, CA—U.S. Army 1958-1964); Robert Schaible (Las Vegas, NV—U.S. Navy 1963-1969); Darrel Schaible (Redding, CA—National Guard 1958-1966); Kenneth Schaible (Sacramento, CA—U.S. Navy 1961-1967); Lyle Schaible (Burnsville, MN - U.S. Navy 1963—1969); Roger Schaible (Aberdeen, SD—U.S. Navy 1966-1972); and Harvey Schaible (Leola, SD—U.S. Navy 1960-1966).

Collectively these heroes gave 44 years of service to this great country. All of these heroes are Legion members of Roy S. Hickman Post 78 in Leola.

Harvey has continued his commitment to our veterans by serving as the McPherson County Veterans Service Officer.

Special thank you to the Schaible family for their outstanding service to this country and their on-going support of veterans!!!!!!



OPEN HOUSE OF NEWLY REMODELED VA OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Sioux Falls VA (Dept. of Veterans Affairs) Health Care System welcomes all Veterans, their families, and area residents to an open house of the recently renovated outpatient mental health services at the Sioux Falls VA Medical Center. This event will take place March 19 from 1:30-3:00 PM in Building 1 of the medical center at 2501 W. 22nd Street.

Staff will be available to provide tours and share information about mental health services available (psychiatry, psychology, social work neuropsychological testing, and home-less programs) and the renovation itself. Refreshments will be served.

This is also an opportunity for Veterans to learn more about VA services available to them.

Questions, please call 605-333-6889.



VETERAN RECEIVES ELECTRONIC WHEELCHAIR

Martin Luther King once said, "If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, 'Here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well.'"

SDDVA employees aren't artists, or musicians, or street sweepers; but the hosts of heaven and earth will definitely say: "here are the most dedicated leaders who assist their veterans and their families 24/7."

This week the USD Parry Center in Sioux Falls, contacted staff at the Sioux Falls claims office, noting that they had an electronic wheelchair that they would like to give to a veteran in need. Knowing their heroes as well as they do, staff was able to arrange for a Gulf War Veteran who is suffering from hip injuries and has had and will undergo surgeries, to receive the electronic wheelchair. Staff worked with a local vendor to get a ramp attached to the veterans pickup to assist with loading and unloading the wheelchair. Hats off to Regina Boeve (SDDVA), Cole Boeve (USD Parry Center), and Brian Wallenburg for going the extra mile to improve the life of one of South Dakota's heroes!!!!!!

(The Parry Center for Clinical Skills and Simulation is a state-of-the-art facility used to teach clinical communication, physical examination and technical skills for health professionals at all levels of learning.)



GOV. DAUGAARD PRESENTED HONOR AND REMEMBER FLAG

In recognition of House Concurrent Resolution 1012, South Dakota Gold Star Mothers and families of South Dakota's fallen heroes presented Gov. Dennis Daugaard with an "Honor and Remember" flag for use at state buildings.

House Concurrent Resolution 1012 recognizes the Honor and Remember flag as the designated symbol of South Dakota's concern and commitment to honoring and remembering all members of the United States Armed Forces who have lost their lives while serving, or as a result of service, and their families.

"Families have always served in time of peace and war, standing solid behind the service members," said Larry Zimmerman, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. "This special group of Gold Star members is living this service everyday of their entire lives. They and the fallen will not be forgotten!"

The Honor and Remember flag's red background represents the blood shed by brave men and women who sacrificed their lives for freedom. The white field and border recognizes the purity of that sacrifice. The blue star is a symbol of active service in military conflict that dates back to World War I. The gold star signifies the ultimate sacrifice of a warrior in active service who is not returning home and reflects the value of life given. And the flame symbolizes the eternal spirit of the departed

"It is fitting and proper to honor the many Americans who lost their lives while in service to our great nation," said Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the adjutant general of the SDNG. "This flag serves as a constant reminder of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to America."

With the adoption of HCR 1012, the Honor and Remember flag is designated as South Dakota's emblem of service and sacrifice by the men and women of the armed forces who have died while serving.



(Left to right of the Governor) – Kevin Spiers, Survivor Outreach Services Program Coordinator; Rex and Margie Roling (fallen hero SSG Robb Roling); Blondie Wagner (fallen hero SSG Gregory Wagner); Senator Chuck Welke (fallen hero LCPL Joseph Welke); Brad Stecklenberg (fallen hero SSG Jeremy Vrooman); Deb and Howard Pearl (fallen hero SPC Daniel Bartels); Christine Bestgen (fallen hero SPC Dennis Jensen); Gloria Doohen, Senator Jean Hunhoff, Representative Bernie Hunhoff and SDDVA Secretary Larry Zimmerman.



(Left to right) – Margie Roling, Blondie Wagner, Rex Roling, Gov. Daugaard, Senator Chuck Welke, Brad Stecklenberg, Deb and Howard Pearl and Christine Bestgen.

Upcoming Events

2014

Mar. 21—Veterans Legal Services Workshop—VA Sioux Falls—4th Floor—9:00 am
 Apr. 5-6—152nd Yellow Ribbon
 Apr. 7—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—BHNC—9:00 am
 May 2-4—DAV State Convention—Ramkota Hotel—Aberdeen
 May 6—SDDVA Mini Conference—Sturgis - Veterans Club, 868 Main Street—10:00 am (MT)
 May 7—SDDVA Mini Conference—Pierre - American Legion, 520 S. Pierre Street—10:00 am (CT)
 May 8—SDDVA Mini Conference—Brookings - City/County Building, 520 3rd Street—10:00 am (CT)
 Jun 5-8—VFW State Convention—Custer
 Jun. 19-22—American Legion State Convention—Ramkota Hotel—Pierre
 Jul. 7—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—BHNC—9:00 am
 Aug. 6—DOL Veterans Job Fair—Augustana College Elmen Center—10:00 am—2:00 pm
 Aug. 25-29—NACVSO Training Ramkota Hotel—Pierre
 Oct. 6—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—BHNC—9:00 am

Veterans & Spouses Job Fair

Wednesday, August 6, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Augustana College, Elmen Center
 2505 S. Grange Ave. Sioux Falls, SD



No Charge to Attend

Visit with over
 90 local and regional employers
 about job opportunities.

Job fair is for Veterans of the
 Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy,
 Guardsmen, Reservists and those transition
 from active duty and spouses
 of all military service members

Sponsored by: For more information, call Tom or Jim at 605.367.5300



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